



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 25, 2017

Senate Finance Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB17-1242 New Transportation Infrastructure Funding Revenue

Senator Neville, Chair and Fellow Senate Finance Committee:

Transportation infrastructure is the backbone of the State's economy but state funding has failed to keep pace with the increasing demands to maintain, improve and expand the infrastructure.

Pitkin County urges you to vote **YES** on HB 17-1242 and allow the voters of Colorado to decide the future of the state's transportation funding.

Colorado's population is projected to grow by 1.5 million people over the next 15 years and continues to have one of the highest growth rates in the nation. Current funding does not allow state and local entities to maintain existing infrastructure, much less look to capacity enhancements to keep pace with population growth. Local governments bear the brunt of the increased population. Efforts to increase transportation funding have helped in some areas, but without State and federal investment and funds to assist, limited improvement will occur. Pitkin County supports HB 17-1242 and its efforts to increase transportation and multimodal revenue options to local governments while providing desperately needed transportation funding for state highways.

Denying HB 17-1242 does not mean the issue is over. It is likely voters will still see a ballot question in 2017 through the initiative process. Instead, failing to approve HB 17-1242 ignores the legislative process and puts at risk a comprehensive plan to address Colorado's highways, roads and transportation options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Newman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George Newman
Chair, Board of County Commissioners
Pitkin County